

of an epidermal growth factor-like (EGF-like) polypeptide effective to reduce the neurological deficit in the patient, wherein administration of the EGF-like polypeptide commences more than 12 hours after the injury.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the injury comprises an ischemic episode.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the ischemic episode is a focal ischemic episode.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein the ischemic episode is a global ischemic episode.

30. The method of claim 26, wherein the injury comprises a traumatic injury.

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31. The method of claim 26, wherein the EGF-like polypeptide is epidermal growth factor or an EGF receptor-binding fragment or analog thereof.

32. The method of claim 26, wherein the EGF-like polypeptide is administered intravenously.

33. The method of claim 26, wherein the EGF-like polypeptide is administered intracisternally.

34. The method of claim 26, wherein the patient is a human patient.

35. A method for reducing a neurological deficit in a patient who has suffered an injury to the central nervous system, the method comprising administering to the patient an amount of an epidermal growth factor-like (EGF-like) polypeptide effective to reduce the neurological deficit in the patient, wherein administration of the EGF-like polypeptide commences more than 24 hours after the injury.

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36. The method of claim 35, wherein the injury comprises an ischemic episode.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the ischemic episode is a focal ischemic episode.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the ischemic episode is a global ischemic episode.

39. The method of claim 35, wherein the injury comprises a traumatic injury.

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40. The method of claim 35, wherein the EGF-like polypeptide is epidermal growth factor or an EGF receptor-binding fragment or analog thereof.

41. The method of claim 35, wherein the EGF-like polypeptide is administered intravenously.

42. The method of claim 35, wherein the EGF-like polypeptide is administered intracisternally.

43. The method of claim 35, wherein the patient is a human patient.--